

The East King County crew waves to the camera after finishing their filming of a video on Fox Sports Northwest



The North King County crew strikes a pose that they are "down with EYC" during environmental education at Meadowbrook Pond in Seattle

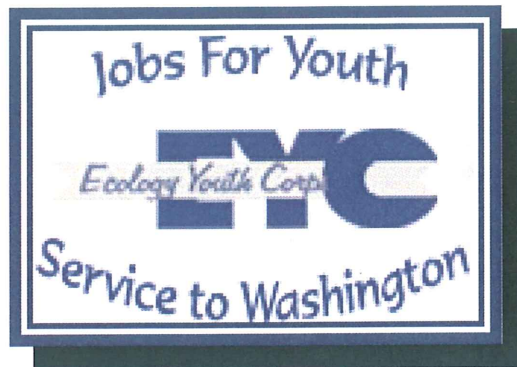


Northwest EYC sure was on the lookout for litterers and secure load violators, making more than 100 reports to 1-866-LITTER-1

**E**cology **Y**outh **C**orps

**2007 Annual Report - Northwest Regional Office**





## Section 1. Executive Summary & Overview

2007 was a successful year for the Ecology Youth Corps (EYC) in the Northwest Regional Office (NWRO). Outputs for the year are found in Table 1-1; details of outputs by season and county can be found in Sections 2 and 3. Recycling totals by commodity are in Table 1-2.

**Table 1-1  
NWRO EYC Outputs 2006**

HOURS WORKED	25,845
MILES CLEANED	1,408.6
POUNDS COLLECTED	388,335

**Table 1-2  
NWRO Recycling  
Outputs by Commodity**

ALUMINUM	5,304
GLASS	7,160
PLASTIC	2,406
SCRAP METAL	41,750
MISCELLANEOUS	1,325
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>57,945</b>

Recycled items comprised 15% of all material collected. This is the most poundage recycled as well as the highest percent of material recycled in the past six years. Scrap metal continues to be the driving force in total pounds, this year representing over 70% of material recycled by weight.

Comparing 2007 outputs to 2006 outputs, operational efficiencies (pounds and miles relative to hours worked) were slightly lower. Hours worked increased by **18%**, whereas miles cleaned increased by only **4%** while total pounds collected increased by **7%**. See Table 1-3 for a comparison of 2007 with previous years. The output star of the year is recycling, which increased by **33%** from 2006.

Hours worked were the highest since at least 2002 largely due to running an extra youth crew each session this summer. We also ran a five-person spring median crew in Kin County, which is one more person than usual. Recruitment and retention of median crew members in King

County in the fall was a problem, as is the case every year. The summer session started three days later than originally planned because delayed end-of-year school dismissals meant many first session youth could not start as planned on June 25.

**Table 1-3**  
**2007 Outputs Compared to 2002 through 2006**

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>HOURS WORKED</b>	20,891	24,627	24,211	23,166	21,894	<b>25,845</b>
<b>MILES CLEANED</b>	761.2	943.9	945.5	1,515.7	1,351.2	<b>1408.6</b>
<b>POUNDS COLLECTED</b>	233,686	307,688	311,925	352,515	361,590	<b>388,335</b>

A great operational success for 2007 was ***NO injuries or incidents that required medical attention beyond on-sight first aid.*** This is the second year in a row with no L&I claims for NWRO. Great job!!

There were no vehicle accidents this year. There were a few guard-rail encounters and the usual replacement of blown tires and cracked windshields/windows. There were four automobile breakdowns (starter, radiator hose, alternator, and intermittent stalling). After three vehicle vandalizations in 2006, thankfully there were none in 2007; hopefully 2006 was simply an aberration.

127 persons were employed by the NWRO EYC this year - 104 youth crew members, 11 median crew members, and 12 supervisors. There were six returning supervisors and six new ones. Eleven of 18 invited youth returned for a second summer of employment. Details of youth hiring are found in Section 2.2.

Supervisors and youth crew members both had favorable reviews of the EYC program on end-of-session surveys. Over 80% of youth crew members would definitely recommend the job to a friend and 90% of youth thought their supervisors were always or almost always safe, fair, and efficient.

Youth crew orientation day was slightly modified for 2007 given prior year feedback by many supervisors. There was more road safety and road preparation emphasis; returning supervisors thought the changes an improvement and they will be continued in 2008 and years to come.

## Section 2. Operations & Outputs

Ecology Youth Corps activities are divided into three sessions – spring, summer, and fall. This year, spring session was from March 16 through June 19, with two median crews operating, one based in King County and the other in Whatcom County. Summer session was from June 28 to August 17. During summer there were 18 18-day youth crews and one eight-week median crew. In the fall, lasting from August 20 through November 30, the median crews were once again based out of King and Whatcom counties; a second median crew operated for two-weeks at the end of August through Labor Day.

### Section 2.1 – Spring Session

The *spring Whatcom County median* crew was headed by Erik Moore, in his sixth year with EYC. The crew cleaned portions of the following roads:

- Interstate 5
- State Routes 9, 20, 536, 542

Second year veteran Mark John supervised the *spring King County median* crew. He had a very productive team of four crew members. The crew cleaned portions of the following roads:

- Interstate 5, Interstate 90, Interstate 405
- State Routes 18, 99, 167, 509, 516, 518, 520, 522, 599, 900

Table 2-1 shows outputs for the spring session of both crews.

**Table 2-1**  
**NWRO Spring Outputs 2007**

HOURS WORKED	4,145
MILES CLEANED	313.8
POUNDS COLLECTED	70,455
POUNDS RECYCLED	9,583

### Section 2.2 – Summer Session

This year 700 applications were received on time; 480 applications (69%) arrived via online submission and 220 (31%) via hard copy. 51% of applicants were male, 46% female, and 3% unknown.

There were 104 youth crew positions available; 11 of the available positions were filled by returning youth from summer 2006 who had been invited back for 2007 based on excellent performance. Through a random drawing, 279 youth were selected for interviews to fill the remaining 93 vacancies. Tables 2-2 and 2-3 detail equal opportunity hiring statistics of the youth selected for hire.

**Table 2-2**  
**Youth Hired by Gender**

	Number Hired	Percent of Total
MALE	53	51%
FEMALE	51	49%
TOTAL	104	100%



**Table 2-3  
Youth Hired by Ethnicity**

	Number Hired	Percent of Total
CAUCASIAN	59	56.7%
AFRICAN AMERICAN	19	18.3%
HISPANIC/LATINO	13	12.5%
ASIAN/ PACIFIC ISLANDER	10	9.6%
NATIVE AMERICAN	1	1.0%
OTHER/UNKNOWN	2	1.9%
TOTAL	104	100%

There were four experienced supervisors this summer and six new ones. In addition to the 10 supervisors, Matthew Lang returned for a second year of crew checking. Matthew dutifully visited each crew on a regular basis, providing technical expertise, substituting as needed and getting to more intimately know the heavily traveled roads in the Northwest Region. This was Matthew's seventh and presumably final year with EYC as he started a job as an electrician at Seattle City Light the day after his final day with Ecology. His road knowledge will be missed.

18 youth crews (18 days each) and one median crew operated during the summer session. The summer outputs are found in Table 2-4. Bad weather, extreme heat for three days and then three days of heavy rain, negatively impacted first session outputs. Youth crews per county were as follows: Whatcom County-2; Skagit County-1; Snohomish County-5; King County-8; and Kitsap County-2. The summer median crew (eight weeks) also operated out of King County.

**Table 2-4  
NWRO Summer Outputs 2007**

HOURS WORKED	17,916
MILES CLEANED	816.2
POUNDS COLLECTED	202,035
POUNDS RECYCLED	28,927

Erik Moore supervised the 12 youth hired in *Whatcom County*. The crew cleaned all of Interstate 5 shoulders and interchanges from Canada to the Skagit County line, parts of Interstate 5 in Skagit County as well as portions of SR, SR20, SR542 and SR548. They collected 24,675 pounds of material and cleaned 169.3 miles of road.

First-year supervisor Julia Rowland supervised the *Skagit/North Snohomish County* crew; ten youth were hired. The crew collected 13,350 pounds of material while cleaning 115.5 miles. The Skagit crew worked on shoulders and interchanges of Interstate 5 from Mount Vernon through all of Skagit County and 12 miles into Snohomish County. The crew also cleaned portions of SR20 between Anacortes and Sedro Woolley.

Beth Varner supervised the summer youth crew in *Central Snohomish County*. This was Beth's first year with EYC. The 12 youth under her supervision cleaned 60 miles of road and removed 14,430 pounds of debris. They cleaned many sections of Interstate 5 north of Lynnwood, through Everett and up to Marysville. They also cleaned several stretches of SR2, SR525 and SR526.

Colton Lindelof was the *South Snohomish County* supervisor; this was his first year with EYC. Colton supervised a group of 10 youth on the newly formed South Snohomish crew. Colton and crew spent eight weeks in heavy traffic cleaning Interstate 5 from Lynnwood to the King

County line and Interstate 405 from the Interstate 5 junction to the Woodinville area. They also cleaned portions of SR522 near Woodinville. The South Snohomish crew picked up 15,975 pounds of material from 74.3 miles of road.

The *East King County* crew was lead by first-year supervisor Anna Elizabeth Kramer. Twelve youth were hired. Anna and crew spent the majority of their effort cleaning very busy stretches of shoulder and interchanges on Interstate 405 and SR520 in Bellevue, Redmond, Kirkland, and Newcastle. They also cleaned some less-trafficked portions of Interstate 90 eastwardly from Bellevue. They removed 18,750 pounds of material while cleaning 79.7 miles.

Van Helker was the *North King County* supervisor; this was his second year with EYC. Van supervised a diverse group of 12 youth – mostly residents of Seattle. Van and crew spent eight weeks on some of the most traveled roads in the state, namely Interstate 5 immediately to the south and the north of downtown Seattle. They also cleaned parts of SR900. The North King crew picked up 28,575 pounds of material from 52.1 miles of road.

Jenika Webber, new to EYC in 2007, was in charge of the *South King County* crew. Jenika and the 12 diverse South King youth cleaned SR516 between SR167 and I-5 and I-5 from Des Moines to the Pierce County line. The crew cleaned 51.5 miles of road and collected 19,425 pounds of material.

The *Southeast King County* operated under the direction of Natalie Collins – a first year supervisor. Twelve youth were hired. Natalie and her crewmembers cleaned many sections of SR18 between Auburn and Covington and SR167 from the Pierce County line to Kent. The Southeast King crew picked up 26,640 pounds of material and cleaned 49.4 miles of road.

The final youth crew in the NWRO was Rick Haskin's *Kitsap County* crew. This was Rick's 11th year supervising our Kitsap County youth crew. Twelve youth were hired to work in Kitsap County. The crew picked up 13,050 pounds of material while cleaning 87.4 miles of road. They focused their efforts on SR3 between Poulsbo and Bremerton and SR16 between Gorst and Gig Harbor.

Mark Johnson supervised the summer *King County median* crew. This crew focused on medians of Interstate 5 south of downtown Seattle to the Pierce County line as well as many of the mega-interchanges in King and Snohomish County. Their final outputs were 30,930 pounds collected and 77 miles cleaned.

### **Section 2.3 – Fall Session**

Erik Moore switched from Whatcom Youth to supervise the *fall Whatcom County median* crew. The crew spent the majority of their effort on Interstate 5 median in Whatcom and Skagit counties. Additional cleaning occurred on SR9 and SR542.

With summer completed Mark Johnson resumed his median supervisory role, taking back the *fall King County median* crew. The crew cleaned portions of the following roads:

- Interstate 5, Interstate 90, Interstate 405
- State Routes 18, 99, 167, 509, 516, 518, 520, 522, 599, 900

Another fall median crew, lead by Van Helker, operated for two weeks at the end of August and early September, cleaning the median of Interstate 405 between Woodinville and Bothell.



**Table 2-5  
NWRO Fall Outputs 2007**

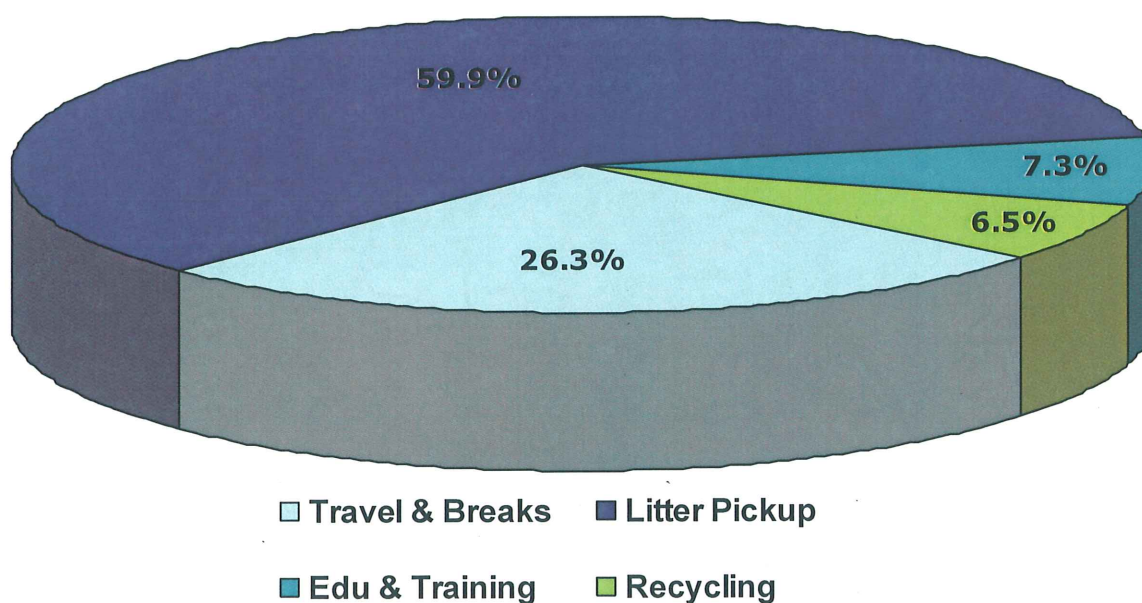
HOURS WORKED	3,704
MILES CLEANED	275.2
POUNDS COLLECTED	85,455
POUNDS RECYCLED	13,993

The fall session was much more productive this year than in 2006 because of vastly improved weather, particularly in November. The crews were only forced off the road one day from rain this November, after many rain, wind, and snow events in November 2006. For example, miles cleaned in fall increased by 41%.

### Section 3 – Effort by Activity

EYC tracks crew time by four different activities – travel and breaks, litter pickup, training/education, and recycling. Chart 3-1 presents the results for 2007.

**Chart 3-1  
Percentage of Time Spent by Activity**



Time spent on litter pickup decreased by 0.3% compared to 2006. There was more time spent on recycling and training/education.

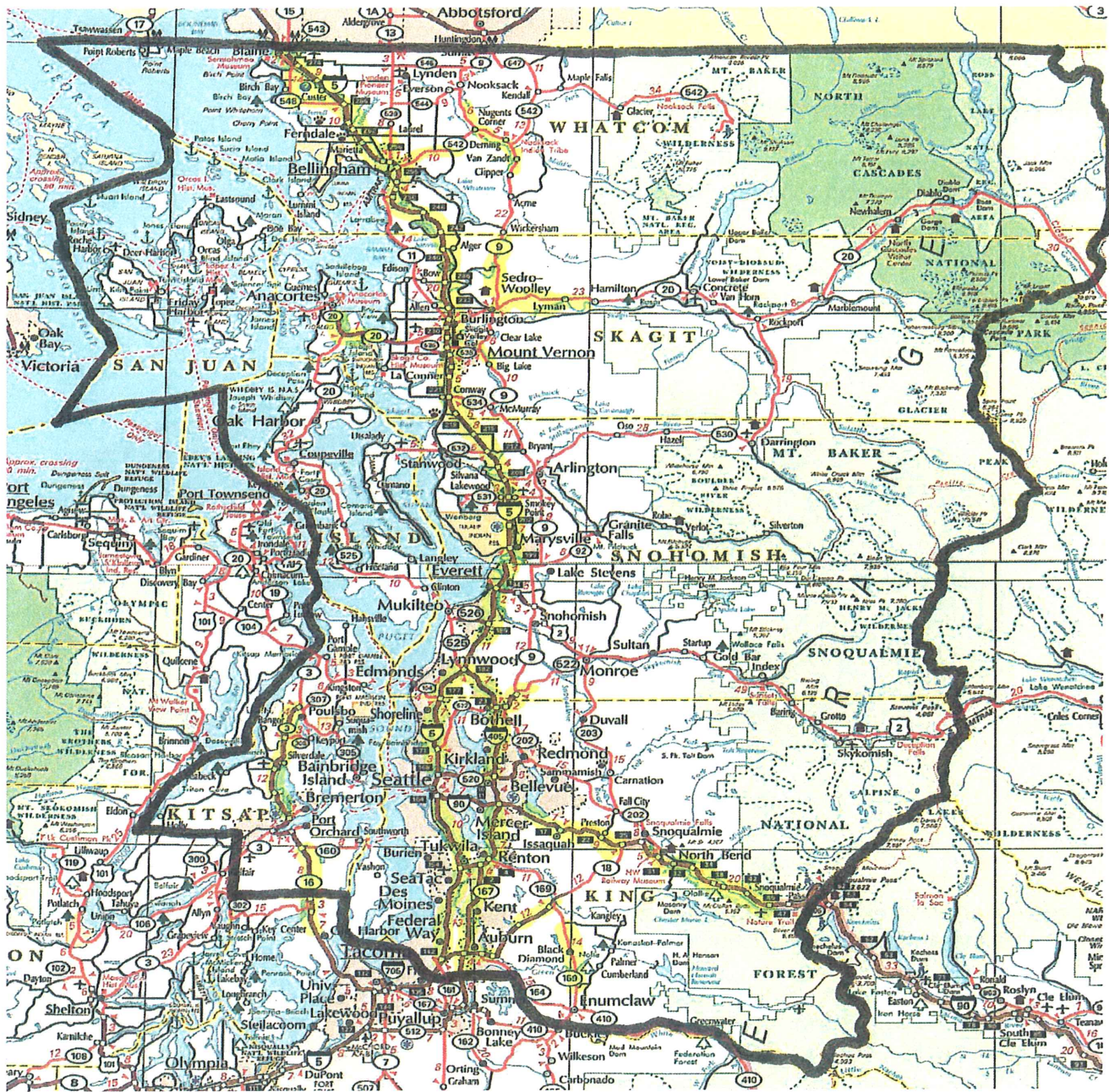
Median crews spent 67.8% of time on litter pickup while youth crews spent 56.0% of time on litter pickup. Youth crews spend significantly more time on training and educational activities than their median crew counterparts – 10.1% for youth compared to 1.7% for median crews.



## Section 4 – Areas Cleaned

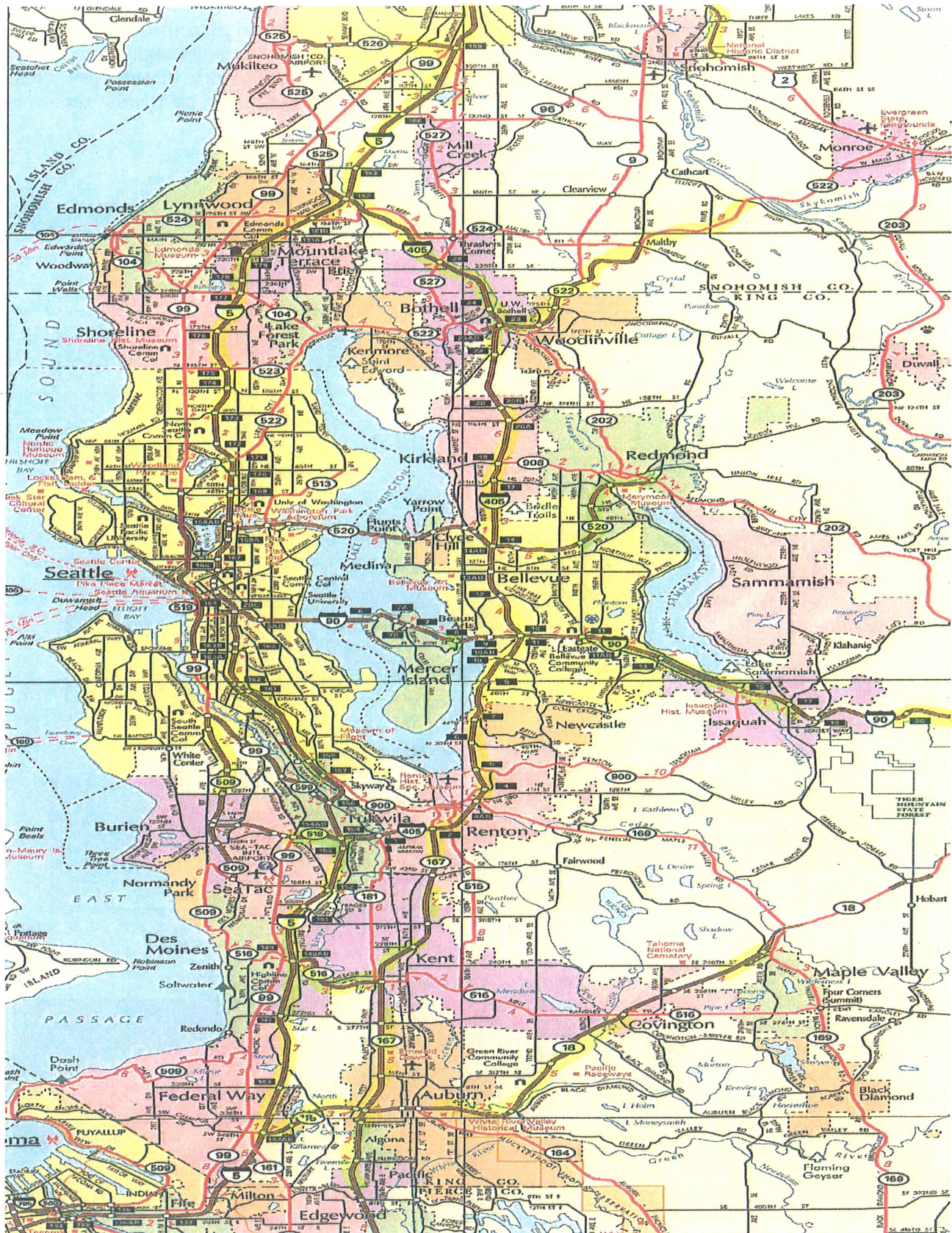
Figures 4-1 and 4-2 on the following pages highlight the sections of state roads cleaned by Ecology Youth Corps crews in 2007. The **Yellow Highlights** indicate that *at least* one directional shoulder, an interchange or median was cleaned; however, in many cases both directions of shoulder, interchanges and the median were *all* cleaned.

**Figure 4-1: Regional Map of Interstates and State Routes Cleaned by EYC Crews**  
(NWRO boundary denoted by gray outline)





**Figure 4-2**  
**Puget Sound Detail Map of Interstates and State Routes Cleaned by EYC Crews**





## Section 5 – Cleaning Effort by County

The NWRO is comprised of seven counties, though EYC crews operate only out of five of those counties -King, Kitsap, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom. Though assigned in title to specific counties, (e.g. North King or Whatcom) crews often clean in other jurisdictional boundaries. Table 5-1 shows outputs by county as a percentage of overall EYC work in the Northwest Region. For perspective, each county's percentage of the population of the northwest region is included.

**Table 5-1: Percentage of Outputs by County**

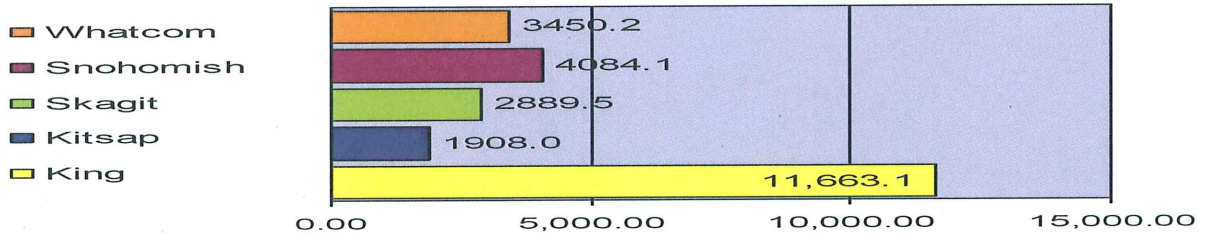
*(Parentheses is respective county's population as a percentage of the NWRO total population)*

<b>KING (60.2%)</b>		<b>KITSAP (8.0%)</b>	
Hours	52%	Hours	7%
Pounds	58%	Pounds	3%
Miles	36%	Miles	6%

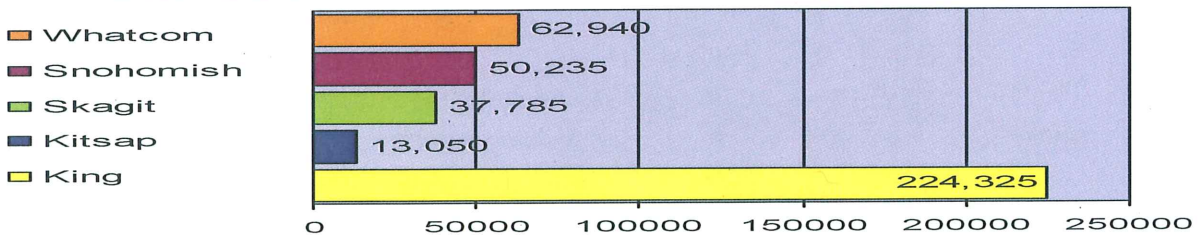
<b>SKAGIT (3.7%)</b>		<b>SNOHOMISH (22.0%)</b>		<b>WHATCOM (6.1%)</b>	
Hours	11%	Hours	16%	Hours	13%
Pounds	10%	Pounds	13%	Pounds	16%
Miles	19%	Miles	14%	Miles	25%

The following charts show output by county.

**Chart 5.1 - Hours Worked by County**



**Chart 5.2 - Pounds Collected by County**



**Chart 5.3 - Miles Cleaned by County**

